

Message Text

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FOR CU/WE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, SP (DIEZ NICOLAS, JUAN)
SUBJECT: FY-77 INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

1. EMBASSY WISHES NOMINATE JUAN DIEZ NICOLAS, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INSTITUTO DE LA OPINION PUBLICA OF MADRID AND RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE EDUCACION A DISTANCIA FOR A TWO TO THREE WEEKS LEADER GRANT UNDER THE IVP.

2. SR. DIEZ NICOLAS WELL KNOWN TO EMBASSY OFFICIALS FOR MANY YEARS, HAS ATTAINED, IN SPITE OF HIS RELATIVE YOUTH (ABOUT 38 YEARS) HIGH POSITIONS IN THE SPANISH ADMINISTRATION AND IS A RESPECTED FIGURE IN THE ACADEMIC WORLD. HAS VISITED THE U.S. AS A STUDENT SOME YEARS AGO. DETAILED BIO-DATA WILL FOLLOW.

3. ALTHOUGH DIEZ NICOLAS HAS STUDIED IN THE U.S. UNDER A FULBRIGHT GRANT AND HAS VISITED THE US ON OTHER OCCASIONS (HE MOST RECENTLY ATTENDED THE SMITHSONIAN 1976 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, SEPT. 27 - OCT 1, 1976), THIS PROPOSAL IS IMPORTANT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. HE HAS ONLY BEEN RECENTLY APPOINTED TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC OPINION INSTITUTE. ALTHOUGH HIS ACADEMIC

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FIELD IS IN SOCIOLOGY, HE HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED BEFORE WITH THE OPERATION OF A RESEARCH CONCERN IN THE DETAILED MANNER OF DIRECTING SURVEYS, ANALYSING DATA AND PUBLISHING RESULTS.

B. THE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC OPINION IS NOW A DEPENDENCY OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER HAVING BEEN TRANSFERRED THERE RECENTLY FROM THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

TOURISM. DIEZ NICOLAS IS THEREFORE A CLOSE COUNSELOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON PUBLIC OPINION.

C. THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS GIVING SIGNAL IMPORTANCE TO THE STUDY OF ATTITUDES OF ALL SECTORS OF SPANISH SOCIETY DURING PERIOD OF EVOLVING DEMOCRACY. RATHER ACCURATE PREDICTIONS WERE MADE THROUGH THE INSTITUTE REGARDING THE REFERENDUM RESULTS AND AN INTENSE CONTINUATION OF ATTITUDE SOUNDINGS IS PLANNED THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR.

D. THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH AND PUBLIC OPINION AND ATTITUDE SOUNDINGS HAS RISEN DRAMATICALLY DURING THE YEAR SINCE FRANCO'S DEATH. THERE IS NOW LITTLE OR NO PROSCRIPTION TO SUCH ENTERPRISE AND THE EMBASSY VIEWS DIEZ NICOLAS ASSOCIATION WITH IT AS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THE GENERAL PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION.

4. HIS PROGRAM WOULD CONSIST OF AT LEAST TWO AND NOT MORE THAN THREE WEEKS. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS POSITION AND HIS COUNSELING DUTIES IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, HE CANNOT PLAN ON A LONGER PERIOD. VISITS TO THE LEADING POLLING CONCERNS OF THE U.S., I.E. HARRIS, GALLUP, ROPER, CADDELL, THAT WOULD CONSTITUTE THE PRIMA PART OF HIS TIME. OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE BUT USEFUL WOULD BE AN EXPOSURE TO THE THEORETICAL OR ACADEMIC PROCESS OF MODERN RESEARCH AT ANY UNIVERSITY PRESENTLY RENOWNED IN THE FIELD. A TWO DAY BRIEFING IN WASHINGTON DEVOTED TO CONFERENCES WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, CONGRESS (BRIAN ATWOOD OF SENATOR EAGLETON'S STAFF) AND VISITS TO A FEW POINTS OF INTEREST. A ONE DAY VISIT TO PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCHERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, WHICH HE ATTENDED DURING HIS FULBRIGHT STUDIES, MIGHT BE INCLUDED TIME PERMITTING. SAME MINIMAL TIME FOR A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUITABLE TOURIST ATTRACTION.

5. TRAVEL PREFERENCE IS AT THE END OF JANUARY (AFTER THE INAUGURATION CEREMONIES) AND DURING THE FIRST HALF OF FEBRUARY 1977.

6. AN UP GRADING OF PRIOR CLEARANCE ON DIEZ NICOLAS IS IN PROCESS.

7. ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING DETAIL WILL FOLLOW. EMBASSY REQUESTS PRIORITY HANDLING BE ACCORDED THIS NOMINATION AND THAT TWO PROPOSALS BE DRAWN UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ONE FOR A TWO WEEKS STAY AND ONE FOR A THREE WEEKS STAY. STABLER

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